IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

Another object of the present invention is to provide a sheet feeder as described above, wherein a sensor lever is supported at its swinging axis in an ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole made in a supporting member and has an abutting member which may abut against the receiving portion of the supporting member to prevent the swinging axis of the sensor lever from moving with a small amount or no amount of sheets. This simple means enables the sheet feeder to surely prevent the movement of the swinging axis of the sensor lever, ensuring the reliable operation of the sensor lever with a small amount of remaining sheets to be fed.

Page 4, the last paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, please amend as follows:

A further object of the present invention is to provide a sheet feeder as described above, wherein a sensor lever is supported at its swinging axis with a noncircular cross-section inserted in an ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole with an enlarged round hole portion made in the supporting member to prevent the movement of the swinging axis in the ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole of the supporting member with a small amount or no amount of sheets, thereby ensuring the reliable operation of the sensor lever with a small amount of remaining sheets in the cassettes.

Page 11, the second paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12, please amend as follows:

Fig. 4 illustrates a side view of the first example of a sheet sensor used in the sheet feeder according to the present invention. A sensor lever 34 has a sensor lever axis (swinging axis) 35 fitted in an elongated ~~elliptic~~ hole 32 made in a sensor lever holding member 31 for the sensor lever and can freely swing. ~~A sensor lever holding member 31 corresponds to a supporting member defined in claims.~~ The sensor lever 34 will tend to locate itself ~~locates~~ at the lowest part of the elongated ~~elliptic~~ hole 32 by its weight. The sensor lever 34 has a sensor lever abutting member 36 and the sensor lever holding member 31 has a sensor lever receiving member 33. With a small amount of sheets in the cassette as shown Fig. 4, the sensor lever 34 swings and the sensor lever abutting member 36 abuts against the sensor lever receiving member 33 of the sensor lever holding member 31. In this state, the sensor lever axis 35 cannot move upward in the elongated ~~elliptic~~ hole 32. As described above, when the number of sheets in the sheet cassette is small, the sensor lever axis 35 is prevented from moving upward in the elongated ~~elliptic~~ hole 32 by abutting the sensor lever abutting member 36 against the sensor lever receiving member 33. A change in angular position of the sensor lever 34 is correctly detected to indicate the existence/absence of a paper sheet in the cassette.

Page 12, the second full paragraph, please amend as follows:

The sensor lever 43 has a sensor lever axis 44 movably fitted in an ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole 42 made in a sensor lever holding member 41 for the sensor lever. The sensor lever axis 44 has a noncircular section of different sizes in different radial directions. In the shown instance, the sensor lever axis 44 with an ~~elliptic~~ elongated cross-section can or cannot move in the ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole in the holding member depending on an angle of the sensor lever 43. On the other hand, the ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole 42 made in the holding member 41 has a larger diameter round hole 42a in its lower end of the ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole 42. Therefore, the sensor lever axis 44 can freely rotate in the larger round hole 42a at any angle of the sensor lever 43. When the sensor lever 43 takes a near horizontal position in Fig. 5, the sensor lever axis 44 can move upward in the upper portion of the ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole 42 since the direction of the longest diameter of the sensor lever axis 44 is identical to the longitudinal direction of the ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole 42 of the sensor lever holding member 41.

Page 12, the last paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, please amend as follows:

This sheet sensor can retract the sensor lever 43 upward by moving the sensor lever axis upward in the ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole 42 when the sheet cassette is loaded with a large number of paper sheets. On the other hand, the sheet

sensor keeps the sensor lever axis 44 in the large round hole 42a when the sensor lever 43 works with a reduced amount of sheets in the sheet cassette, reliably sensing the existence/absence of paper sheets to be fed.

Page 14, the first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

~~With~~ In one embodiment of the invention, with a small amount or no amount of sheets remaining in the sheet cassette, the abutting member is formed on the sensor lever and abuts against a receiving member of the supporting member, thereby preventing the movement of the swinging axis in a simple structure and enabling the movement of the sensor lever to be reliable.

Page 14, the second full paragraph, please amend as follows:

~~The~~ In another embodiment of the invention, the sensor lever has a swinging axis of a noncircular profile, which axis is fitted in an ~~elliptic~~ elongated hole in the supporting member with an enlarged round hole formed at one end thereof in the supporting member. With a small amount or no amount of paper sheets remaining in the sheet cassette, the swinging axis is kept in the enlarged round hole in order to ensure the reliable action of the sensor lever with decreasing amount of the remaining sheets.